

UK Rivers Network

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Helping communities to help their rivers



River picture by Ryan Hagerty courtesy of [US Fish & Wildlife Service](#).

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The world's rivers have never been under such stress. Even in the UK and Ireland, rivers are under huge pressure from human activities.

The UK Rivers Network brings people together to create a better future for rivers and inland waters in the UK and Ireland.

How this website works

It's really easy to get involved in helping your local river. Here are five simple things you can do:



Find your local river group

Join a local river group and take part in river restorations, clean-ups, and hands-on conservation. [Tell me more](#) or [show me a map](#).



Love your river

Find out about festivals, talks, voluntary river clean-ups, and other events. [Tell me more](#).

Enjoy your river with a walk or cycle ride. [Tell me more](#).



Support a campaign

Help people who are campaigning for rivers, lakes, and inland waterways. [Tell me more](#).



Follow the news

Get the latest UK river and environment news. [Tell me more](#).



Learn more

Find out more about rivers, fishing, water, and pollution. [Tell me more](#).

What's new?

Photo: The River Frome, Dorset, in summer.

Here are some new things on our website and elsewhere...



[Flooding: What to do](#): The BBC offers a handy summary of official advice for people unlucky enough to be



caught by flooding.



[River walks and cycle rides](#): We've got well over 100 river walks and cycle rides on our new page. Please add in any more great watery walks you know about.



[Forthcoming river events](#): From pond dips and canal walks to litter picks and full-on river festivals, there are dozens of river-related events going on all over the country virtually all year round. Our new events page tells you all about them—and lets you add more events of your own.



[Introduction to rivers](#): A simple new guide to the basic features of rivers from Explain that Stuff!

Don't forget these older pages:



We're continuing to develop our educational pages. Most recently, we've collected together a page of [climate change and global warming photos](#) to add to our very popular [pollution photos](#) and [river photos](#) for students and researchers.



Need to find out about water pollution? Check out our ever-popular [Pollution](#) page. Explain that Stuff! also have a good introductory article about [water pollution](#).



Want to get involved with local river conservation projects? Take a look at our ever-popular [Network page](#). We've now (finally) got an interactive map of all the UK river groups we know about. The page is now in wiki-format so you can add or change details of groups yourself.

Latest news from the riverbanks

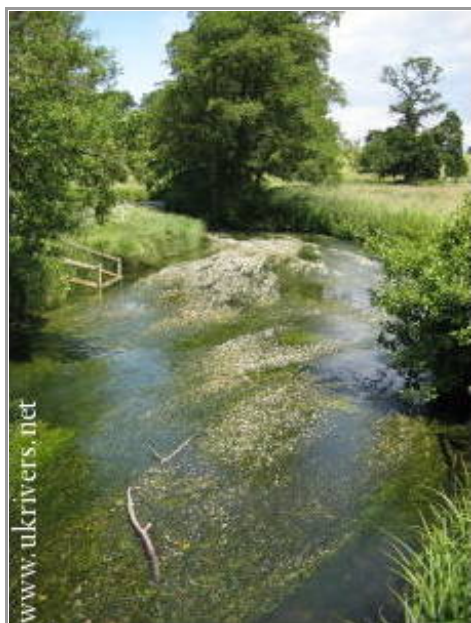


Photo: The River Test, Hampshire.



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Fri,
18
Feb
2011:

environment

[THE Government's U-turn on the planned sel](#)

Thisisgloucestershire - 1 hour ago

The hugely unpopular proposals were brought to a halt on Thursday as **Environment** Secretary Carolin Spelman announced to MPs in the Commons that "we got this one wrong". She has ceased the public


[Sussex MPs welcome forest sell-off](#)
[Government forced into humiliating](#)





[Scottish Water invests in River Avon](#): A £10 million investment plan in water treatment works across West Lothian is great news for the River Avon and its


users.





 *Fri, 18 Feb 2011:* [Eating down the food chain?](#): You might remember Daniel Pauly's work from a decade or so ago about how we're gradually [fishing our way down the food chain](#). Well now we're being encouraged to pre-empt the process by eating our way down instead, allowing fish at the top of the chain a bit of breathing space so their stocks can recover.


 *Thu, 17 Feb 2011:* [Exercise Watermark: Can we cope with catastrophic flooding?](#): The nation's biggest emergency exercise is set to take place across next month (7-11 March 2011). Exercise Watermark will test the UK's responses to catastrophic flooding from overflowing rivers, collapsing reservoirs and tidal surges. It will bring together ten government departments, 34 local resilience forums, emergency responders, water companies, hospitals and schools to test responses to a range of flood scenarios over four days. For the first time, communities will also be taking part, evacuating schools and hospitals and installing flood defence products to protect properties.

 *Thu, 17 Feb 2011:* [Hudson River fish have evolved toxic immunity](#): A research group led by a New York University School of Medicine scientist has discovered a genetic variant that allows a fish in the Hudson River to live in waters heavily polluted by PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), chemicals used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications. Read the [original press release](#).


 *Thu, 17 Feb 2011:* [Japanese call time on whaling \(for now\)](#): Japanese "scientific" whalers have called it a day this season after being dogged by campaigners from Sea Shepherd.

 *Wed, 16 Feb 2011:* [Royal Commission urges us to move north](#): We can't all go and live in the Highlands, but we can certainly plan the way we live on a small, overcrowded island to make better use of natural resources, according to a new Royal Commission report.

 *Wed, 16 Feb 2011:* [Machynlleth residents call for new Dyfi bridge](#): High river levels have prompted calls for a new bridge in Mid Wales.

 *Thu, 17 Feb 2011:* [Climate change is linked to extreme flooding](#): New scientific studies suggest climate change does indeed produce increased precipitation and may well have caused the disastrous British floods in 2000.

 *Tue, 14 Feb 2011:* [Freshwater pearl mussels are breeding in the North](#): The Environment Agency reports successful experiments at its Kielder Hatchery.

 *Tue, 14 Feb 2011:* [Super-diary plan withdrawn](#): Plans for a massive US-style dairy in Lincolnshire have been pulled (for now) amid mounting concerns about the effects on groundwater and the local environment. But don't think for a moment that's the last we've heard of these factory farms.

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